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## BARBADOS.

*Report from Bridgetown—Increase of yellow fever in the island.*

Consul Martin reports, February 16:

Yellow fever is again assuming a more virulent form. During the first 14 days of February the number of cases seemed to abate, only 7 having been reported as occurring during that period. February 15, 2 cases were reported, and to-day 7 cases have been reported. Six of these 9 cases are in one family in the parish of St. Lucy, at the extreme north end of the island, in the locality where the present outbreak originated. There has been only one case in Bridgetown this month. The cases continue to be confined to native Barbadians.

## CHINA.

*Reports from Shanghai—Inspection and disinfection of vessels—Precautions against infection of vessels by rats—Measures for rat destruction.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ransom reports, January 20 and February 2:

Week ended January 16. Two original and 3 supplemental bills of health were granted to 5 steamships having an aggregate personnel of 919. There were inspected 3 steamships, 156 members of crews, 1 cabin passenger, and 2 steerage passengers, and there were disinfected 94 members of crews and the living quarters of 2 vessels. Manifests were viséed for 5,855 pieces of freight.

The steamship *Niagara* from San Francisco with bulk oil for Chin-kiang lay at the wharf while at that port. At Shanghai she lay at the oil wharf, which is believed to be rat free, but rat guards of a rather ineffective design were used on all lines and no gangways were put out. The crew was bathed (53 natives) and their effects were disinfected by steam late on the day before sailing, the vessel sailing at daylight on January 11.

The steamships *Mongolia* and *Minnesota* remained in the stream at Woosung during their stay in this port, and only such of the personnel as were leaving from Shanghai were inspected, which inspection was carried out on the tender at the hour of its departure for the ship. The loading of these vessels was done from lighters—in the case of the *Mongolia* entirely by daylight and in the case of the *Minnesota* by night. Rat guards were ordered to be used.

The steamship *Hazel Dollar* was in dry dock and alongside the wharf at Pootung while in this port, and rat guards were used at the latter. Loading was done during the entire twenty-four hours from the wharf. The native crew, 41 men, were bathed and their effects were disinfected by steam late on the day before sailing, the vessel leaving at daylight on January 14. The bathing and disinfection of the crews were done under service supervision.

The steamship *Muncaster Castle* lay at a buoy in the stream while in this port and loaded from lighters. Rat guards were provided for all lighter lines. This vessel was fumigated in Kobe to destroy vermin, but the crew were not disinfected either there or at this port, in view

of the fact that a complete change was to be made in the personnel at Hongkong, that being the last port before departure for an American port at which a service officer is stationed.

Plague-infected rats continue to be found in the proportion of about 3 per cent of those examined, including only such animals as are found dead. Trapped rats are destroyed without examination. Three hundred dead rats were examined last week, of which 9 were found to be plague-infected. The area of infection seems to be spreading, rat plague having been found in all sections of the settlement, but invariably in the houses of natives.

An energetic campaign is being carried on against rats in the international settlement. The problem presents many obstacles to the effective destruction of these animals, particularly as there are no means by which the importation of fresh supplies of infected and non-infected rats can be prevented, by vessels and from the surrounding country, even if it were possible to get rid of those now present. One of the greatest difficulties in this direction is due to the fact that the French and Chinese cities have their own independent administrations and are not governed by any action which the international settlement may take. Little is being done in either of these settlements to destroy rats.

About 2,000 rat-traps have been placed by the health department in the vicinity of the houses in which plague rats have been found, and by this means about 2,000 rats were captured and destroyed last week. The bait used was fish heads, vegetables, meat, bran, etc., and the traps were made as inconspicuous as possible. Poison has been little used, owing to the theory that it causes rats to scatter, and that it would thus be liable to spread the infection. The rat proofing carried out here has consisted of repairing holes in the flooring, walls, roofs, etc., and the cleaning and screening of drains in such houses as infected animals have been found in, the work being done by the health department staff. Crude oil has been freely poured into old rat holes and runs. The intention is to divide the settlement into districts and work from the periphery of each toward each infected center, destroying rats and rendering houses as nearly rat proof as possible.

There appears to have been an epidemic among the rats on the *Delhi* while in this port last week, which was not reported to the health authorities. The vessel lay at the Hongkew wharves and very many dead rats were found on board while she was unloading and were thrown overboard. This vessel was bound to Bombay via Hongkong and the Straits Settlements, and hence did not come under the official observation of this office.

During the week ended January 30 a supplemental bill of health was granted to 1 steamship, with a total personnel of 44. One vessel with 44 members of crew was inspected.

This vessel, the steamship *Aragonia*, lay in the stream at this port and was loaded from lighters, the loading being carried on during the entire 24 hours. Rat guards were used on all lines to lighters, buoys, etc.

Plague rats are still being found and are scattered over the entire settlement, but infected animals are found in greatest numbers in the eastern district, where the wharves are located, and where the outbreak of plague among rats first made its appearance.